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notice of these county Carlow tokens. My inquiries have failed to discover any particulars of the individuals who struck them.



The token is in the cabinet of Frederick Haughton, Esq., of Levitstown, county Kildare. It is of copper, weighing 33 grains.

I may add that search has been made in vain in the Prerogative Court, Dublin, and the District Registry of the Probate Court at Kilkenny (whither the wills and administrations of the diocese of Leighlin were transferred in 1858), for any testamentary documents calculated to identify the individual strikers of our tokens, or elucidate their history or connexions.

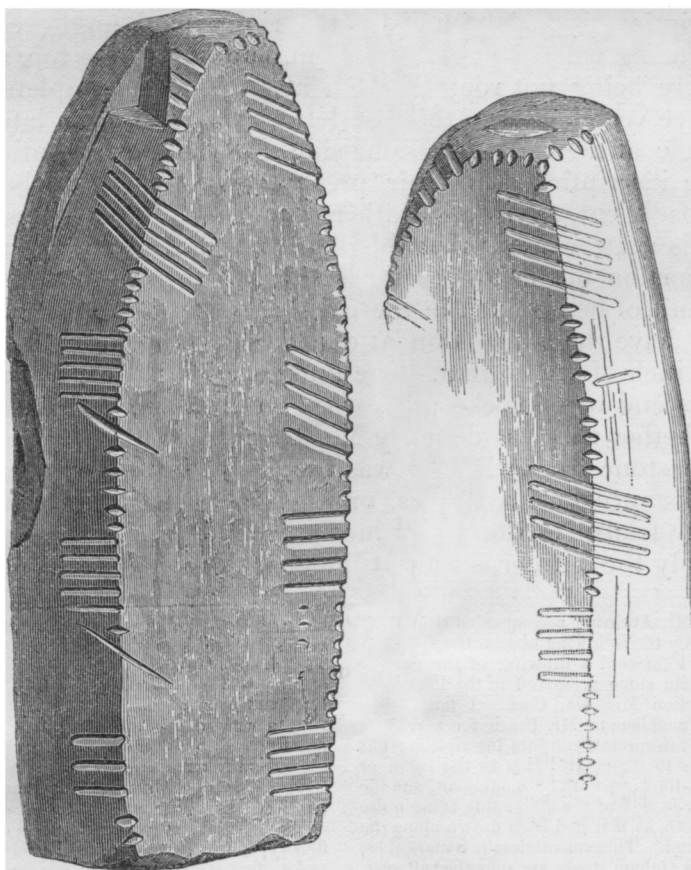
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#### ON TWO OGHAM INSCRIBED STONES FROM THE COUNTY OF CORK.

BY RICHARD R. BRASH, ESQ., M. R. I. A.

THIS remarkable monument was found in a killeen at Leades, on the townland of Deelish, and parish of Agha-bulloge, by Mr. Paul Horgan, of Carrigagully, in the year 1826. The finder was unaware of the nature of the markings on it, but being struck with its peculiar coffin shape, it was preserved from injury until seen by Mr. Windele, who first ascertained it to bear an Ogham inscription. Mr. Horgan had a peculiar taste for oddly-shaped stones, of which he had a remarkable collection. On Mr. Windele's representation he presented it to the Museum of the Royal Cork Institution in 1835. The actual place where the stone was found is known as Killbereherth, and the whole district round it abounds with cromleacs, stone circles, pillar stones, raths, and holy wells.

In the course of removal, a flake was unfortunately knocked off one of the angles: this was preserved by the late Mr. Abraham Abell, who was then Librarian, with the intention of having it cemented on, but this having never



Ogham Stone preserved in the Royal Cork Institution.

been done, the piece which bore a portion of the inscription has disappeared. The stone is at present 3' 2½" in height, 11" by 9" at bottom, and 13" by 8½" at the widest part, and 4" by 7½" at the top; it is of a hard, fine-grained clay slate, of a buff colour, and is faithfully represented by

the accompanying woodcuts, engraved from a drawing by Mr. George M. Atkinson.<sup>1</sup>

The first inscription commences on the left angle, *close* to the bottom, and runs round the head, finishing at the right hand angle of the top. Another, and a different inscription, is to be found on the right hand angle, commencing within 4" of the bottom, running to the top, and there being not room enough at the side to complete it, three vowel dots of the last letter are cut on the lateral angle of the top, at the same side. With a few exceptions, the inscription is in fair preservation, the letters being broadly cut, as if with a rather blunt punching instrument. It is quite evident that this stone was longer: invariably a portion of the lower end is left uninscribed, in order to admit of being fixed in the earth: in the present instance we have the inscription at one angle commencing within an inch of the bottom. The inference is, that a portion of this end was knocked off for the convenience of carriage. Whether this was done by Mr. Horgan when he removed the stone from where it was found to his own residence, a distance of three miles, or whether to prepare it for an easy transit to Cork, I cannot now determine: more probably the former, as Mr. Windele, after once having seen

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Atkinson accompanied the drawing by the following observations.—Ed.

"I forward a drawing of the curious Ogham stone preserved in the Royal Institution Museum, Cork. I must refer the members to Mr. Brash for a reading and interpretation of its inscription; but I beg to direct attention to the coffin or boat-like shape of this monument, and the strange fact of the under side being quite smooth, as if it had been drawn along the ground. This smoothness is remarkable; some Ogham stones are smoothed all over, as that preserved in the Museum of Trinity College, figured by Dr. Todd; one at Ardmore also; and several others.

"The right hand inscription shows two very distinct methods used in engraving Ogham writing. I have observed when drawing Oghams, that three very different methods were employed by the Ogham "smiths;" and two of these methods appear frequently on one stone.

"The first, and perhaps the oldest, is a large and broad mark, as if executed with

a blunt kind of punching instrument, giving section, No. 1.

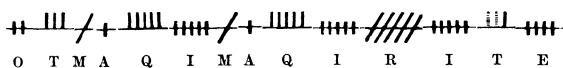
The second is sharp and fine, well cut, and looks as if it had been rubbed with a point and water afterwards, see section No. 2. The third is a very fine scored mark, as if scratched, as shown in No. 3.

The inscriptions on this stone are of the first type, with the exception of letters 3 and 4, first stroke of 5, and middle point of 6, right hand inscription, which I think are of the second type, and it is a question whether they belong to the original inscription or not.

"The top, or head of the stone shows an ingenious method of getting out of the difficulty caused by the space along the upper edge of the stone proving insufficient for the inscription—the remaining letters being continued down the end slope, as shown in the illustration."



the monument, would doubtless have prevented any injury to it. The inscription on the left angle reads as follows:—



This reading plainly gives “Ot maqi maqi Rité,” i. e. “Ot, the son of Mac Rité.”

The name of the individual commemorated is a very singular one—“Ot,” being of a type found in our Bardic histories as “Ir,” “Un,” “Ni”—all names of but two letters: the frequent occurrence of names of this type on Ogham monuments is a strong evidence of their antiquity. That the above letters form the proper name “Ot,” we have corroborative evidence in the Tullig inscription, now in the Royal Cork Institution, in which we have the same name spelled with a double T; we have it also entering into the composition of another proper name, “*Ottin*,” on a stone at Lomanach, county of Kerry. Between the T and M there is a space of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches without any trace of a letter, or any appearance of injury to the stone; we have then the letters M A Q I, forming the well known word “*Maqi*,” the genitive case of “Mac,” a son. Now, the scores forming the M and A, and the first score of the Q, have a remarkably recent appearance, as if rubbed deeply in with a sharp instrument, and not having the rough, shallow, punched aspect of all the other letters. It has been suggested that some person has tampered with this inscription: if by this is meant, that these scores were additions to it, or alterations of it, I must say that I think there are no grounds for such an insinuation. In the first place it would have been made by some person having a direct interest in doing so, the object being to produce a certain reading of it; now, I am not aware of any person ever having published any reading of this inscription. I have looked through Mr. Windele’s papers, and he has not done so. I can say the same of the Rev. Matthew Horgan; and as to Mr. Abell, though an enthusiastic Ogham hunter, he never attempted to read one in his life. I know of no other person having

access to this monument who would have the knowledge requisite to make these additions, if such they are ; for these fresh scores make the inscription to read consistently, which it would not do without them. My own opinion is, that the scores in question were much worn and obliterated—more so than the rest—and that some zealous individual, fearing they might be entirely lost, sharpened them up. Now, there is internal evidence in the inscription that these letters must have originally existed in that precise spot ; for, between the second and the fifth letters there is a space of  $7\frac{1}{2}$ '' ; and, looking at the crowded state of the stone, with the letters quite thick and close, it is quite evident that such a space was not left bare, or without letters : again, the inscription, as it now stands, is a consistent one, and the word which the fresh-cut letters assist in forming is to be found on other monuments, and used in exactly the same formula as in the present instance. Thus, on the Dunmore stone, county of Kerry, we have "Erc maqi maqi Erci as ;" and again, on No. 11, in the Royal Irish Academy Collection, we have "Nocati maqi maqi Ret," and which last is, in fact, the very same inscription, the first proper name in each only excepted.

The patronymic "Rite" is a very usual one on these monuments: we have it in various forms, as "Rité," and "Ret," in the above examples ; we have it also as "Rett" on the Cahernagat stone, and as "Ritti" on stones at Ballinrannig, and Greenhill. We must therefore conclude that the place of these fresh-rubbed scores must have been originally occupied by their equivalents, which had been partially obliterated, and which were thus restored by some injudicious person.<sup>1</sup>

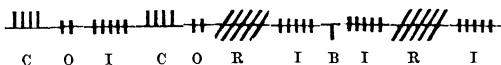
It may be considered that this inscription should have been read round the top, and down the opposite angle ; and I confess it was the first impression made upon my mind by the aspect of the stone : a careful examination, however, obliged me to change my mind from difficulties arising. On the top front angle are four vowel dots form-

<sup>1</sup> I have before stated that a spawl was knocked off this stone in its transit ; this was on the top where the letter T was, two

of the scores of which were damaged, as shown by the dotted marks.

ing the letter E, the concluding letter of "*Rité*:" following down the right angle there are two vowel dots, equidistant with the four on the top ; if read continuously these six vowel dots could not be divided, and the sense of the inscription would be lost, added to which, on a lateral angle on the top of the stone there are three distinct, well formed vowel dots. What would become of these if the whole be read as one inscription continuously ? These vowel marks would not work in, and in such a case why should they be put on this lateral angle ?

Again, my attempts to read it continuously were very unsatisfactory ; I was, therefore, compelled to read the opposite angle from the bottom upwards, the last letter, the vowel I, being rendered complete by taking in the three vowel dots on the lateral top angle, as follows :—



Which I read as follows :—"Coi [rthe] Coribiri," i. e. "Pillar stone of Coribiri."

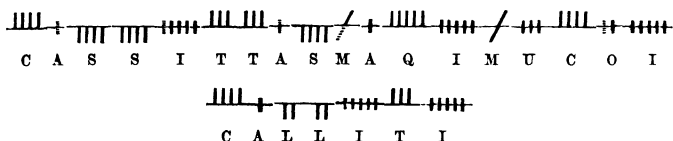
The letters "coi" I take to be the Oghamic initials of "coirthe" or "cairthe," used to designate a sepulchral "dallan" or pillar. Thus Duaid Mac Fírbis designates the monumental stone of Dathi, A. D. 405, the "Cairthe Dearg," or "red pillar stone." In a poem introductory to the *Leabhar-na-g-Ceart*, as found in the *Book of Lismore*, fol. 138, and which is an address by the bard Dubh-da-Tuath, to Aodh O'Neill, he wishes that the king may live for ever like a pillar stone (*cairrte cloc*).

The name "Coribiri" is strange to our Gaedhelic nomenclature, but perfectly consistent with that type found on our Ogham pillars, upon which we find such names as Togittac, Mucotuc, Mudossa, Cunagus, Forarti, Colabot, &c. It is possible that others may attempt a more elaborate reading of this inscription, and may transpose and subdivide the letters into words, which may be made to bear a different rendering: the extraordinary flexibility of our old language eminently favours such attempts.

I am, however, satisfied to submit mine to the judg-

ment of those learned in Oghamic lore, it having at least this merit, that it is based upon the actual letters of the inscription, without any alteration or omission whatsoever, and that it is consistent with the formula usually found on these inscriptions. The custom of making one stone the memorial of more than one individual was very prevalent as regards these monuments, of which we have numerous examples, as No. 11 of the Royal Irish Academy collection, and on the stones at Tullig, Roovesmore, Ballinaunig, &c.

The next Ogham inscribed stone I have to notice was found at Gurranes, county of Cork. This monument was found in a Rath called Lisheenagreine, on the townland of Gurranes, and parish of Templemartin, county of Cork, and one quarter of a mile north of the parish church. My first information of its existence was received from the Rev. John Lyons, C. C., Newcestown, Enniskeane, who informed me that a stone, bearing marks, which he believed to be Oghams, was seen by him, in the locality above named. Being convinced, from Mr. Lyons' description, that it was a veritable Ogham inscription, I took the earliest opportunity of visiting the spot, which I did on December 16th, 1868, and found it to be a rough, irregular-shaped flag, of hard clay slate, the almost universal material of those monuments, being in length 5' 10''; and 15'' by 8'' in the centre, but of lesser dimensions at either end. The inscription commences as usual on the left angle, at 2' 6'' from the bottom, and runs round the head, and down the opposite angle on the same face. The angles are very irregular, and show several flakes off, to the injury of the characters, particularly the vowels; the perfect letters are broadly and deeply cut, and in their original state were executed with care.



It reads "Cassitt as Maqi Mucoi Calliti, i. e. Cassit



here, the son of the Swineherd Calliti." This is a very interesting inscription ; it gives us two new names of that remarkable type generally found on these monuments.

We have first the proper name "Cassitt" spelled with that profusion of consonants so often found in these inscriptions ; the vowel A between c and s has been lost, owing to a flake off the angle, but from the size of the space, the analogy of the rest of the letters, and the fact that the missing letter must have been a vowel, I am warranted in restoring it as I have done. I have not met with this name in any of our indices of ancient names or genealogies ; it may probably have been by other investigators. We have some names akin to it, as the well known one of Cormac Cas, A. D. 170 ; and Caisin, scribe of Lusca, who died A. D. 695. (Ann. 4 Mast.) The A in "as" is doubtful from the abrasion of the angle, but the presence of the letter s, which has no connexion with the letters following, and which must have been connected with the letters preceding it, and the fact, that there is exactly space for the A between the last t of the proper name and the s, combined with the fact, that I have met with the word "as" in the same position on several other Ogham inscriptions, warrants me in restoring it as I have done. The word "as," according to our dictionaries, signifies "it is," and which may be rendered "here," or "here lies," "here rests."

We have then the usual word "maqi," the genitive case of "mac," a son. This word is perfect, excepting the lower half of the first letter m, which is much injured. We have then the word "mucoi," so frequently met with in these inscriptions, the literal meaning of which is a swineherd, and is given in our Gaedhelic dictionaries as "mucaidhe, S.M., a swineherd," from "muc," a boar, pig, &c., &c. We find it used on these monuments as a proper name. These animal names are common with ourselves, as Fox, Lyon, Bull, Hare, Wolf, &c. ; and we also find it as a tribe name, and used to designate the calling or occupation of the deceased, as it does in the present instance. We are not to consider this a term of opprobrium : in ancient times it appears to have been quite the contrary, when the wealth of the Gaedhel consisted of herds of cattle, sheep,

and pigs. From numerous allusions in our ancient MSS., the latter animal seems to have been held in great estimation, and in the enumeration of the riches of a wealthy "brughaid," or farmer, the swine occupied a prominent place. Thus we find it forming a principal item in the tributes paid by the territorial chiefs to their provincial kings, as set forth in the "Leabhar-na-g-Ceart," or "Book of Rights." For example, among the tributes due to the King of Cashel are mentioned the following—

"Ten hundred cows, and ten hundred hogs from the Muscraidhe."

"Ten hundred cows, and ten hundred hogs from Ciarraidhe Luachra."

"Two thousand hogs, and a thousand cows from the Deise." (Book of Rights, p. 43.)

The provincial kings and chiefs had also special officers set over their flocks of sheep, and herds of cattle and swine: thus we are informed in the above authority that "Durdru" was the "Mucadhe" or swineherd of the "King of Ele," and "Cularan," the swineherd of the "King of Muscraidhe."

The term "mucaidhe," or its Ogham equivalent, "mucoi," is analogous to that of "bo airech," which we frequently meet with in Irish MSS., and which literally means a man wealthy in cows, from "bo," a cow, and "airech," a term of distinction.

I have found this name, or designation, or tribe name—for it is used in each of these senses—on twelve different monuments. The concluding name, "Calliti," I have not been able to identify, unless we should consider it to be a form of "Cailte," a name well known in our mythic history, as well as in early historic times, and which I am greatly inclined to think it is.

Mr. Lyons informs me that this stone was found on the site of the rath by a farmer named Crowley, about seventeen years since. While earthing potatoes, his spade struck the flag, then lying about a foot below the surface; he dug round it and removed it to the gripe of the adjoining ditch, where it fortunately lay without being broken up, as hundreds of these remarkable and interesting monuments have been from time to time. It appears that the rath

had been levelled some few years previously, by a tenant named Doyle, and the people aver that "neither father nor son had luck nor grace afterwards." I am much indebted to the Rev. John Lyons for his kindness and courtesy in supplying me with all necessary information, not only in this case, but also with respect to the numerous ancient monuments found in his locality. It would be most desirable if this inscription could be removed from its present exposed position to a place of safety.

Since writing the above, I have received a communication from the reverend gentleman already named, who, at my suggestion, commenced a series of excavations on the site of the erased rath where the stone was found, as I hinted to him the probability of its having been a covering stone of a Souterrain: he writes as follows: "I commenced excavations adjoining the stone. We first came on a passage about 8 feet in length, which was half closed with earth; we did not clear it out at the south end, but finding a narrow passage, or channel, at the north end, I crept into it, and found a chamber 16 feet long, 5 feet wide, and 4 feet high, quite empty; it was excavated like a gravel pit, without any masonry excepting at the narrow end, which ran in an eastern direction, but was built with stone, and roofed over with large flags, which I examined, but found no trace of Oghams on *the under side* of them: we did not clear the surface on the top. We cleared the passage inside to within 6 or 8 feet of where the stone (Ogham) was found, as it ran in that direction, so that the inscribed stone must have been connected with the cave. We suspended our operations about five o'clock, and propose to renew them on Monday or Tuesday."

In a subsequent communication, Mr. Lyons informed me that he continued his examination, and removed the earth from the upper surface of the roofing stones, but made no discovery of inscriptions.

I before stated, that in the majority of instances where Oghams have been found in rath caves, a "killeen," or the site of one, will be found in the neighbourhood. The rath of Lisheen-na-Greine is no exception to this rule. Close to it is the site of one, which even yet is known by the name

of "Cross-na-lanneev." I should not be surprised if other Ohgam inscriptions were found in this locality.

About a mile to the south-east are the pillar stones of Castle na Leacht, described in this "Journal," second series, vol. ii., p. 16. About half a mile to the north, on the same townland, is an immense "caher," with subterraneous passages yet unexplored ; and about two miles to the east is the fortified hill of Cashel. In fact the whole of the district lying between the Bandon and Lee rivers is full of earth works and megalithic monuments.

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